



FLOODING MITIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - Draft SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

The City of Miami Beach Flooding Mitigation Committee met on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at 5:40 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. The meeting was led by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson. Commissioners Michael Grieco and Joy Malakoff were in attendance. The minutes of the meeting held on July 9, 2014 will be submitted to the City Commission for approval at the September 10, 2014 meeting.

REPORT FROM MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON FLOODING AND SEA RISE

Scott Robins, Panel Chair and Dwight Kraai, Panel Member were in attendance. Scott said that he gave an update to the Planning Committee at the August 26, 2014 meeting and will be going back to give an update to the City Commission. Bruce Mowry, City Engineer reported that the pump stations at 10th and 14th Streets and in Sunset Harbour as well as new backflow preventers around the City, will be operational by October 1 in time for the King Tides.

UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS

David Martinez reported that additional work to the Venetian Islands Project will either be bid out separately or handled as a change order. There is interest from the island residents to underground utilities. Commissioner Wolfson expressed concern that this would delay the CIP project and that projects that provide flooding mitigation should not be delayed.

ACTION: It was m/s/p that CIP be directed to get the lowest price from the current contractor of the Venetian Islands Project for a change order for the six pump stations and send onto the Commission as soon as possible.

David announced that there will be a Lower North Bay Road Project informational meeting on September 18, 6 p.m. at the Miami Beach Golf Club.

There was discussion that the new sea wall heights adopted by the City Commission are creating a condition that limits visibility from swimming pools out to the water.

ACTION: It was m/s/p to recommend that Planning staff be directed to allow swimming pools be raised without a variance to provide visibility over 5.7 NAVD.

UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY SWALE FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Bruce Mowry reviewed a proposed resolution regulating swales. Raul Aguila, City Attorney shared that swale enforcement has traditionally been complaint driven and that a clear cut policy from the City has not been developed. The concern is that swales are an important part of flood mitigation and should be utilized whenever possible for that purpose. Raul suggested that a resolution is not needed just a general policy. Swale construction is part of the Public Works Manual.

ACTION: It was recommended that as CIP implements projects throughout the City they go neighborhood by neighborhood working with residents to address encroachments on swales that interfere with flooding mitigation methods.

DISCUSSION OF GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW AND REMODELED STRUCTURES

Dr. Kraai stated that he believes design parameters for projects are too loose and need to be tightened up. Scott said that AECOM is helping with this issue. There was discussion on when the Panel and Committee would take a position on base floor elevations. It was suggested that Public Works, Building and Planning along with AECOM continue gathering information before a recommendation from the Mayor's Panel and Flooding Mitigation Committee is made and passed onto the Commission for action.

ACTION: Invite the Planning Director to the next meeting.

STATUS OF HIRING OF STAFF HYDRO GEOLOGIST

Bruce Mowry is interviewing candidates.

ACTION: Invite Human Resources to attend the next Flooding Mitigation Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The Flooding Mitigation Committee will meet next on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. The meeting will be posted on the City's website www.miamibeachfl.gov, Quick Links, Commission Committee Referral Tracking (CCRT), Flooding Mitigation Home Page to obtain future and past agendas.